



Crime & Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee Summary of work undertaken 2019/20

INTRODUCTION

This report is the annual report of the Sub-Committee, summarising the Sub-Committee's activities during its year of operation ended May 2020.

It is planned for this report to stand as a public record of achievement for the year and enable Members and others to have a record of the Sub-Committee's activities and performance.

SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Sally Miller
Councillor Matt Sutton
Councillor Vacancy
Councillor Vacancy
Councillor Tele Lawal
Councillor John Tyler
Councillor Bob Perry*
Councillor David Durant*

**For part of the 2019-20 municipal year*

During the year under review, the Sub-Committee dealt with the following issues:

MOPAC PARTNERSHIP PLUS SCHEME FOR S.92 POLICE OFFICERS

The Sub-Committee received a report that set out the proposal from the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) on the Partnership Plus scheme for S.92 Police Officers for Havering for a decision by Cabinet.

The new Partnership Plus Scheme was launched in February 2019 to support safer neighbourhoods within London Boroughs. The report detailed that the MOPAC Partnership Plus Scheme for the London Boroughs must be discussed and considered with the Borough Commander.

The report informed the Sub-Committee that the new scheme would allow the Council to purchase police officers at a reduced rate of £57,000 per police constable, £70,500 per sergeant and £86,000 per inspector. This represented a discount of over 21% of the full cost of a police constable.

The minimum term for Partnership Plus Scheme agreement was three years, albeit either party may terminate the agreement with six months' notice for any reason within the term.

HOW THE MPS WERE TACKLING DRUGS IN HAVERING

The Sub-Committee received an overview of how the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) were tackling drugs in Havering. The report outlined that criminal drug use could be found at the root of many of the social problems, often manifesting in problematic behaviour on streets and behind closed doors.

The Sub-Committee noted that crime and disorder ranged from low level drugs related ASB and litter, to high level dealing, supply, OCN and violent crime.

The report indicated that tackling drugs issues required a wide range of tactics and interventions – across East Area's policing strands, other Met departments and in partnership with local authorities and other agencies – particularly around the regulation of all drug classifications and support work for those who were drug dependent.

The MPS had recently re-launched its drugs strategy, focusing on drug-related violence (DRV) and the East Area Basic Command Unit (BCU) was committed to the policy. It was noted that this would demonstrate a long term commitment to reducing demand, harm and supply within the operating parameters of the BCU.

The Sub-Committee was informed that within the BCU (and Havering), any focused drugs work would predominantly be undertaken by the local SNT and CID. However Emergency Response and Safeguarding teams would be heavily involved through their ongoing demand. It was noted that within the Safeguarding Team, it had been identified that drug and alcohol dependency was a key driver for Domestic Abuse and other related issues.

The Sub-Committee was informed that whilst all strands of the MPS would deal with drug-related crime, the focus should always be on prevention. This would be achieved through continued partnerships under IOM (inc DIP) and across the London Borough of Havering and other agencies which educate, along with intervening and supporting those with a drug dependency. This was a joint problem to continue to tackle and reduce.

UPDATE REPORT ON LB HAVERING APPLICATION FOR UNLAWFUL ENCAMPMENT INJUNCTION

The Sub-Committee received an update report at the September 2019 meeting on the Council's application for unlawful encampment injunction. It was stated that residents, business owners and landowners have experienced an increasing number of unauthorised encampments across Havering in recent years.

The report outlined that the Borough had suffered significant and prolonged issues such as environmental and economic as a direct result of each unauthorised encampment, including fly tipping, anti-social behaviour, criminal damage and violent behaviour, and compounded by the environmental impact and health risks arising from the majority of such illegal incursions.

It was stated that across the borough, there were 260 vulnerable sites, including parks and open spaces that have been identified across Havering, requiring deployment of almost 600 injunction notices to ensure that this preventative measure could be made legally enforceable for at least 3 years at the date of next hearing.

At the meeting, the Interim Enforcement Group Manager for Neighbourhoods verbally confirmed that the High Court was hearing the Council's claim for an interim injunction to prevent unauthorised encampments across over 200 sites in Havering and against 105 named individuals between 10 and 11 September 2019.

USE OF TASER DEVICE ON THE EAST AREA BCU

The Borough Commander gave Members a briefing on the use of Taser devices by officers.

It was stated that nationally the Home Office approved Taser for use by authorised firearms officers (AFOs) and 'specially trained officers' (STO's). The Taser device was a conducted energy device and was classified as a Section 5 weapon under the Firearms Act 1968 and by NPCC as 'work related equipment'.

The Sub-Committee was informed that within the Metropolitan Police Service, only officers who have been confirmed in the rank of Constable will be considered for training as a Taser Officer. An officer must attend and pass an initial nationally accredited Taser course. There is a national standard that must be met before an officer could be authorised to carry a Taser.

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD BOARD - UPDATE REPORT

The Chairman of Havering Safer Neighbourhood Board gave Members a briefing detailing the progress of the Board since it was established 5 years ago.

The Sub-Committee was informed that Safer Neighbourhood Boards (SNBs) are the means by which the Mayor of London (through the Deputy Mayor and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime) holds Borough Police Command Units to account for performance, giving residents and victims a greater voice in setting policing priorities.

The following objectives of the board were outlined:

- Having a broad remit to reflect the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime's responsibilities, respecting the view that local people would know best what is needed at the local level.

- Ensure communities are more closely involved in problem solving and crime prevention.
- Have greater reach and ensures a more frequent refresh of ideas and views;
- Achieve greater coherence between different engagement mechanisms, e.g. Independent Advisory Groups (IAG) and Stop and Search Community Monitoring Groups (S & S CMG), so as to provide greater public accountability in policing and crime reduction.
- Make more efficient use of resources to deliver value for money and target funds at tackling issues of local concern and crime prevention.

PROGRESS REPORT ON SERIOUS GROUP VIOLENCE AND KNIFE CRIME

The Sub-Committee received an update report on Serious Group Violence and Knife Crime.

The report informed Members that:

The highest proportion and volume of youth violence takes place within the ward Romford Town. The second most notable ward scoring high with knife crime related offences was Gooshays.

The 'Perception' of Knife Crime being a problem have increased, it was stated that 27% of residents in Havering (1 in 4 people) now believe the issue was a problem.

County Lines awareness was being raised with all of Havering's secondary schools and pupil referral units.

Young people going missing through County Lines have been found in 11 different counties with Essex (Chelmsford) and Worcestershire (Evesham) being the most common.

It was stated that tackling serious violence was a key priority for both MOPAC and the council.

The report detailed the following progresses that have been made:

On County Lines Exploitation - a major, cross-cutting issue involving drugs, violence, gangs, safeguarding, criminal and sexual exploitation, modern slavery and missing persons. The response to tackle county lines involved the Police, the National Crime Agency, a wide range of Government departments, Local government agencies and voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations.

CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORTING

Throughout the year, the Sub-Committee had received reports on the outcome of performance against the indicators which fell within the Sub-Committees remit.